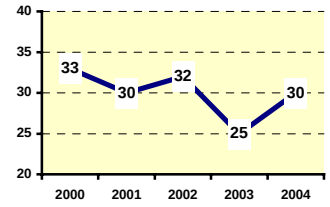
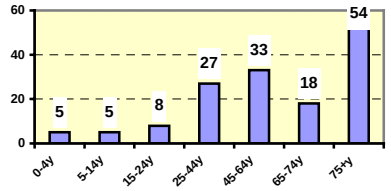
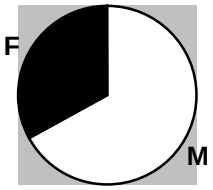
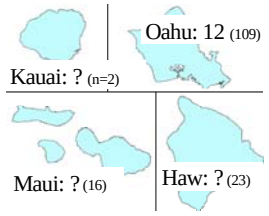
Pedestrian Injury Brief

Injury Prevention & Control Program

Overview of Fatal Injuries

Annual crude rate (1999-2002): 2.6 deaths per 100,000 (2.1 per 100,000 for rest of U.S.)
Hawaii state ranking (1999-2002): 7th highest (NM highest: 3.7/100,000, NH lowest: 0.9/100,000)
Injury ranking (2000-2004): 7th leading cause of fatal injuries, 5th leading cause of unintentional

An average of 30 Hawaii residents are killed each year in Hawaii, with no apparent trend in the annual number over the 2000-2004 period. Almost half (48%) were 65 years of age or older, and annual rates increased dramatically over the senior age range: 4.3/100,000 residents aged 65 to 74, 9.8/100,000 for 75 to 84 year-olds, and 24.3 for those 85 years and older. Most (73%) of the deaths occurred on Oahu.

Trend: no trend. **Total:** 150, **Average**: 30/year	**Age groups:** half (48%) were 65 years or older	**Gender:** 67% Male, 33% Female	**County**: 5-yr rates*: small numbers
			

*Unadjusted rates per 100,000 residents over the 2000-2004 period. The number of deaths is shown in parentheses.

Contributing Factors

Almost half (43%) of the crashes occurred during 2 peak times periods: 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. (26% of the deaths), and 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (17%). Most (81%) of those hit during the morning were 65 years or older. Only 15% of the senior-aged victims were hit during nighttime hours (7:30 p.m. to 4:30 a.m.). Alcohol was involved in one-fifth (20%) of the deaths, as 14% of the pedestrians were estimated to have been drinking prior to the crash and another 7% were hit by a driver who had been drinking (excluding the 28% of deaths for which alcohol status was not known). Alcohol use by pedestrians was much more common among victims hit between 7:30 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. (31%), compared to those hit during daylight hours (4%). Alcohol use was also more common among pedestrians hit in Hawaii County (36%) than on Honolulu (11%) or Maui counties (0%).

One quarter (25%) of the victims were hit while in a crosswalk, and 8% while off the road or on the shoulder. The fault of the crash was roughly equally distributed between pedestrians and drivers. About half (53%) of the pedestrians were in the roadway erroneously, most commonly by improper crossing, or "jaywalking" (36%). Similarly, about half of the drivers (46%) made an error which

contributed to the crash; most commonly drivers were “inattentive” (25%), or failed to yield the right of way to the pedestrian (22%). Only 11% of the crashes were thought to be related to speeding among the drivers.

Non-Fatal Injuries

In Hawaii, for every pedestrian that is killed, there are an estimated 6 who are hospitalized and another 12 who are treated in emergency departments, with more than one third (39%) of them transported via ambulance. Unlike fatal injuries, the highest rates of hospitalizations and ED visits were computed for children under 15 years of age (50.2/100,000), followed by victims 65 years and older. About one-third (29%) of the pedestrians treated for non-fatal injuries were under age 15, but only 7% of those killed were of this age, suggesting age is a critical determinant of surviving pedestrian crashes. Hospital charges for non-fatal pedestrian injuries total $6.5 million per year, or $13 million including physician charges. Oahu EMS data show the highest number and rate of crashes occur in the Kalihi-Palama, Waikiki, Downtown, Ala Moana, and Waianae neighborhoods.